

ECON3213 – Environmental Economics - Fall 2021

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Kuruc (kkuruc@ou.edu)

Location & Time: 174 Cate Center One; Tuesday/Thursday 3:00-4:15 PM

Office Hours: 332 Cate Center One (or Zoom if you prefer!); Tues. 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, Wed. 4:30-5:30 pm; or by appt.

Teaching Asst: Avery Cox (avery.cox@ou.edu); Wed. & Thurs. 12:00-1:00 pm

This course provides an overview of the intersection of economics and the environment. Topics covered will include externalities, valuation of the environment, concepts of efficiency and social welfare, use of renewable and non-renewable resources, human population sizes, and climate change. By the conclusion of this course you will be well prepared for further study of environmental economics and a more informed participant in debate on environmental policy making.

Materials: Much of the course will work from [Markets and the Environment](#) (Second Edition; ISBN: 9781610916073). For some topics not covered in this book, lecture notes and other handouts will be used.

Tentative Schedule

| Week | Topic |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 8/24 | <u>Introductory Topics</u> |
| 8/31 | Markets & Efficiency; |
| 9/6 | Externalities; |
| 9/13 | Social Welfare; |
| 9/20 | Methods to resolve externalities |
| 9/27 | Exam 1 (Tuesday 9/21) |
| 10/4 | <u>Microeconomic Topics</u> |
| 10/11 | Valuing environmental goods; |
| 10/18 | Environmental effects on individuals; |
| 10/25 | Resource use and extraction; |
| 11/1 | Animal Agriculture |
| 11/8 | Exam 2 (Thursday 10/28) |
| 11/15 | <u>Macroeconomic Topics</u> |
| 11/22 | Development and environmental quality |
| 11/29 | Assessing Malthusian models |
| 12/6 | Climate change and the future |
| 12/13 | Exam 3 (Thursday 12/2) |
| | Review Week |
| | CUMULATIVE FINAL (Dec 15; 4:30 pm) |

Other Important Dates:

- Aug 27: Last day to add a course without instructor permission
- Sept 6: Last day for free withdrawal/drop

- Nov 12: Last day to withdraw
- If you have an “important date” I need to know about, email me.

Grade Breakdown:

Homework: 20%

- Six assignments at 4 points each (drop lowest)

Midterms: 60% (20% each)

- Three midterms splitting the semester into thirds

Final: 20%

- Cumulative final exam

There will be no extra credit.

| | Letter Grades |
|---|---------------|
| A | 90+ |
| B | 80-90 |
| C | 70-80 |
| D | 60-70 |
| F | 0-60 |

No rounding needs to be done: 89.878 falls in the 80-90 range.

Learning Resources:

1. Lectures (including posted notes)
2. Textbook
3. Classmates
4. Office Hours
5. Action Tutoring (through University College)

Policies:

Technology Policy

I aim for my classroom to be low-tech. Do not use your cell phone—put it on airplane mode. Do not use your laptop. If you need special accommodations for this policy, please email me during the first week.

Academic Integrity Policy

Cheating is strictly prohibited at the University of Oklahoma, because it devalues the degree you are working hard to get. As a member of the OU community it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the rules. For specific definitions on what constitutes cheating, review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity (<https://integrity.ou.edu/students.html>).

On examinations (unless otherwise noted) you will not be permitted to use your notes, textbooks, calculators, or any other study aids. I encourage you to work in groups for homework, but you may not simply copy work the night before it is due.

Disability Policy

If you desire classroom/testing accommodations for a disability, contact your instructor outside of class to present the supporting documents from the University of Oklahoma Disability Resource Center, <http://www.ou.edu/drc>. Requests for accommodations for disability must be received and authorized by your instructor in written form no less than two weeks in advance of need, in order to allow adequate time to review and make appropriate arrangements. No accommodation should be assumed until authorized by your instructor.

Adjustments for Pregnancy/Childbirth Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html for commonly asked questions.

University Resources (Important!):

Title IX Resources

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24.7, counseling services, mutual no contact orders, scheduling adjustments and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office 405-325-2215 (8-5, M-F) or OU Advocates 405-615-0013 (24.7) to learn more or to report an incident.

University Counseling Services

The University Counseling Center provides a wide range of counseling services including traditional counseling (individual, couple, group), psychological assessment, psychiatry, consultation and outreach. Hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.